

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 /079 W

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PA

SUBJECT: GOP MENACES OPPOSITION LEADERS

1. THE GOP HAS TAKEN SEVERAL ACTIONS DURING THE POST WEEK TO INTIMIDATE OPPOSITION LEADERS AND DISCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL FRONT OF OPPOSITION PARTIES WHICH INCLUDES THE AUTHENTIC RADICAL LIBERALS, THE FEBRERISTAS AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

2. INTERIOR MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY BESTARD SUMMONED RADICAL LIBERAL LEADER DOMINGO LAINO SEPTEMBER 6 AND WARNED HIM TO CEASE HIS EFFORTS TO FORM A NATIONAL FRONT AND CHANGE HIS HOSTIALE ATTITUDE OR FACE REPERCUSSIONS WHICH COULD INCLUDE HIS EXPULSION FROM PARAGUAY. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER LUIS RESCK AND BEFRERISTA OFFICIAL ANGEL BERNAL FONT WERE SUMMONED TO THE INVESTIGATIONS POLICE AND INTERIOR MINISTRY, RESPECTIVELY, SEPTEMBER 5. BOTH HAVE BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO SINCE. THE REASON FOR THEIR DETENTION IS UNCLEAR BUT BOTH WERE ACTIVE IN EFFORTS TO FORGE A NATIONAL FRONT OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IS BELIEVED TO BE A FURTHER EFFORT TO DISRUPT THE FRONT AND DISCOURAGE THE FRONT FROM GOING THROUGH WITH PLANS TO HOLD A POLITICAL RALLY AT FEBRERISTA PARTY HEADQUARTERS SEPTEMBER 8 EVENING.

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3. CHIEF OF POLICE, GENERAL BRITEZ, ACCUSED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE PRESIDENT AND AUTHENTIC RADICAL LIBERAL OFFICIAL CARMEN DE LARA CASTRO SEPTEMBER 2 OF ENCOURAGING POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO GO ON A HUNGER STRIKE (THE HUNGER STRIKE BY THE PRISONERS IS NOW IS ITS TWENTY-NINTH DAY). HE WARNED HER TO STOP SUCH ACTIONS AND QUESTIONED HER ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL FRONT OF THE THREE POLITICAL

PARTIES.

4. THE GOP TOOK ALL OF THESE STEPS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S
AUGUST 30 ADDRESS TO POLICE OFFICIALS ON "POLICE DAY" IN WHICH
HE TOLD THEM THE OPPOSITION WAS ADVANCING BECASUE OF THE "SOFTNESS"
OF THE POLICE. OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE TAKEN THIS TO BE A CLEAR
SIGNAL TO THE POLICE TO CRACK DOWN ON THE OPPOSITION. SUBSEQUENT
EVENTS SUPPORT THIS POINT OF VIEW.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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